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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

9-15 March 1986

Meeting held in

Kinshasa, Zaire

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FOREWORD

The Executive Committee was hosted by the Church of Christ on Earth by the Prophet Simon Kimbangu. The meeting was held in the Kimbanguist Centre in Kinshasa, Zaire, and participants stayed in the Résidence Shenouda III and in 32 studios specially constructed for the meeting.

In the evenings participants were entertained by Kimbanguist bands and choirs. Young people of the Church also presented a play based on the life of Simon Kimbangu. On Tuesday evening, 11 March, Mr Bena-Silu gave a presentation on the history and theology of the Kimbanguist Church.

On Wednesday, 12 March, some 100 leaders of local churches and theological students attended a session at which the General Secretary and the three Unit Moderators explained the structures and work of the WCC. Mgr Bokeleale thanked the WCC for its help to the churches in Zaire, spoke of the problems of Christian unity and hoped that the Central Committee would one day meet in Zaire.

On the afternoon of Thursday, 13 March, President Mobutu of Zaire had a private meeting with the WCC Presidents and Officers, which was followed by a reception for all participants in the garden of his residence. In the evening participants were given a reception by the President of the Bishops' Conference of the Roman Catholic Church in Zaire.

From the evening of Saturday, 15 March to the evening of Sunday, 16th, many participants took part in a pilgrimage to Nkamba, the birthplace and burial place of Simon Kimbangu, and attended a church service there.

During the meeting a representative of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Congo brought greetings from the President of Congo. On Monday, 17 March, Dr Castro, Dr Held and Metropolitan Antonie, together with His Eminence Diangienda Kuntima, were received by the Prime Minister during a visit of participants to the Kimbanguist Church and other churches in Brazzaville.

On Tuesday, 18 March, small groups of participants visited three theological seminaries in Kinshasa and the headquarters of the Baptist Community of Western Zaire, which had joined the WCC in 1985.

The Moderator shared the chairing of the meeting with Dr Talbot.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Kinshasa, Zaire

9-15 March 1986

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Worship

On Sunday, 9 March, small teams of Executive members and staff joined in the worship of many local congregations.

The opening service of worship was held on Sunday afternoon, 9 March, in the Kimbanguist church of Matete, Kinshasa. Those taking part in the service included the Spiritual Head of the Kimbanguist Church, His Eminence Diangienda Kuntima; the General Secretary of the Church, Pastor Luntadila; Pastor Mbungu and Dr Talbot. The preacher was Dr Emilio Castro. The service was attended by Mr Mpinga Kasenda, First Vice-President of the Office of the Central Committee of Zaire's ruling party.

Opening worship on 11 to 15 March was led by Dr Nababan, Dr Wilson, Dr Held, Metropolitan Antonie and Mr Ashmall.

The closing service on Saturday afternoon, 15 March, held in the French-speaking parish of the Church of Christ in Zaire, was led by Mgr Boyaka Inkomo and the preacher was Dr Aaron Tolen. Leaders of various member churches in Zaire also took part.

B. Opening session

At the opening session on Monday, 10 March, the Kimbanguist brass band and choirs performed and an opening prayer was led by Pastor Ilonga, General Secretary of the Church of Christ in Zaire. His Eminence Diangienda Kuntima and Mgr Bokeleale, President of the Church of Christ in Zaire, welcomed the Executive Committee to Zaire. The Moderator expressed the gratitude of the Executive Committee for the warmth and enthusiasm of the welcome they had received.

The Moderator declared the session officially open at 10 a.m. A reception for all participants and visitors was held in the garden of the Résidence Shenouda III.

C. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending and presented apologies from Dame Nita Barrow, Dr Bührig,

Bishop Hempel, Patriarch Ignatios IV, Archbishop Makhulu, Metropolitan Chrysostomos, Ms Skuse and Bishop Toth. He welcomed as visitors representatives of the churches in Zaire, the theological faculties and members of various WCC commissions and working groups from Zaire and Congo. The Moderator particularly welcomed the Executive Committee's host, His Eminence Diangienda Kuntima.

D. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 25-27 July 1985, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

E. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented the agenda and timetable and a number of changes were agreed. The agenda and timetable as amended were adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary paid tribute to a number of ecumenical leaders who had died in recent months: Dr J. Gordon Coburn of Canada, a financial consultant for several months in 1976/77; Archbishop Janis Matulis, Latvian Lutheran Church, a former Central Committee member; the Rev. James Wagner, president of the former Evangelical and Reformed Church USA and co-president of the United Church of Christ from 1957 to 1961; Prof. David Rose of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, a key person in the Church and Society MIT conference in 1979; the Rev. Henk van Andel, an ecumenical youth leader, former staff member of CWME and a development worker in the Netherlands; Dr M.R. Zigler, Church of the Brethren, USA, a Central Committee member from 1954 to 1961 and a participant in all six WCC Assemblies; the Rev. Egbert Emmen, General Secretary of the Netherlands Reformed Church from 1946 to 1967; Mr Juan Faune, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, a member of the Central and Executive Committees from 1968 to 1975; General Frederick Coutts, head of the Salvation Army from 1963 to 1969; Dr Eugene Smith, Executive Secretary of the WCC New York Office from 1964 to 1973; OKR Heinz Kloppenburg, FRG, active in post-war reconstruction and relief, and in many WCC programmes.

The General Secretary referred to the award of the Niwano Peace Prize to his predecessor, Dr Philip Potter, for his work for peace, justice and dialogue. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should send him a letter of congratulation. Dr Castro also said that Dame Nita Barrow and Archbishop Scott were members of the Commonwealth Commission investigating the situation in South Africa.

There had been many visits to the WCC headquarters. In 1985, 135 groups (3,900 persons) had been received. Official visitors included a group of bishops of the Lutheran Church in America; Dr Beyers Naudé, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches; the Rev. Jesse Jackson; officials of the Union Carbide Corporation; Sr Carneado, Cuban Minister for Church Affairs, and delegations from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the Evangelical Church in Germany, the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan and, at the time of the Geneva Summit meeting, delegations from the churches in the USA and USSR.

Ecumenical team visits had taken place in Latin and Central America both before and after the Central Committee in Buenos Aires. There had also been team visits to Czechoslovakia, Greece, Rwanda, Lesotho, North Korea, Haiti and the Middle East. Dr Castro himself had attended meetings or visited churches in Norway, the USSR, Romania, USA, Canada, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Peru and India. In the next six months he planned to visit the Caribbean, FRG, Kenya, Norway, Sweden, Uganda and Yugoslavia.

Statements made on behalf of the WCC since the last Central Committee meeting included an open letter to President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev on the eve of their Summit; a message to the Supreme Court in Chile in connection with the trial of persons accused of murder and torture; a message to the Swiss authorities expressing concern about Chilean asylum-seekers; an appeal to the President of Liberia on political prisoners; a statement on the anniversary of the tragic accident in Bhopal, India; statements on the situation in the Philippines both before and after the change in leadership; a statement on Lesotho, and a statement on the destruction of the offices of the Council of Churches in Namibia.

The WCC had arranged a meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 4 to 6 December, between Western church leaders and heads of churches in South Africa. Various ecumenical and confessional bodies had taken part and representatives of white South African students and of two liberation movements had also been present at some sessions. The meeting had provided an opportunity to hear the testimony of people from South Africa and for them to learn of the commitment of the churches outside. The "Harare Declaration" had already led to actions both inside and outside South Africa. It had been proposed that a full-time staff member might be appointed to monitor events in South Africa and make them widely known. It was also suggested that 16 June 1986, the anniversary of the uprising in Soweto, should be a World Day of Prayer for South Africa.

The General Secretary noted that during 1986 the WCC would celebrate the 40th anniversaries of Faith and Order, CICARWS, CCIA and the Ecumenical Institute, and the 25th anniversary of URM.

A major item on the agenda of the Committee would be the process of covenanting for justice, peace and the integrity of creation (JPIC). The initiatives of others working in the same direction should be recognized, e.g. the appeal from the FRG and GDR for a world council for peace, the study of a group of theologians on a new doctrine of war, the letter from the Moscow Patriarchate calling attention to the initiative of General Secretary Gorbachev for a nuclear-free world by the year 2000, and the call of the Pope to all religions to join in a day of prayer for peace in October. The World Alliance of Reformed Churches had indicated that it would like to enter into the JPIC process and had offered staff help.

The General Secretary spoke of a new danger facing certain countries in Africa and the Western world: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). In view of the ethical and theological problems raised in connection with this disease, the Christian Medical Commission and the sub-units on Education and Church and Society had been analyzing the problem. The three commissions/working groups would discuss the matter and a small consultation of specialists would be held, leading to the preparation of a position paper for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The General Secretary concluded by speaking of trends in Christianity and particularly the rapid growth of Pentecostalism, including the charismatic movement within Protestant and Roman Catholic churches and the independent African churches. The total membership of this movement was 100 million in 1980 and was expected to be 250 million by the year 2000. He asked what this meant for the member churches of the WCC and their spirituality. The members of most Pentecostal churches were the poor and he felt that they had much to teach other churches, and ways should be found to enter into dialogue with them.

* * *

In discussion, several members spoke of the problems in their own country or region and asked for a visit by the General Secretary or an ecumenical team. In response to a question from Dr Wilson about travel strategy, the General Secretary said that in planning account was taken of invitations from churches, the identification of situations where a visit by the General Secretary was considered important, and the need for the WCC to be represented at major events.

Following a full staff debate on the principles of staff travel, it had been agreed to limit it to 75 working days a year in order to provide adequate time in Geneva. With regard to staff travel to South Africa, the General Secretary said that after the discussion in Buenos Aires two members of staff had applied for visas to visit South Africa. No response had yet been received. He would report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee which might consider the general policy.

Mr Bena-Silu suggested that clarification was needed of the term "independent churches"; there was a great variety of such churches. Archbishop Kirill expressed dissatisfaction about the lack of progress in recommending Orthodox for appointment to the staff, despite the proposals of a number of names.

3. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FINANCES

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

A. 1985

For the fourth year in a row, the Council will apparently have managed not to spend more undesignated income than it will have received. This is mainly due to the fact that the budget was slightly underspent, and that the US dollar income was received at exchange rates well above the budget rate which had been adopted.

However, first figures seem to indicate a slight shortfall of current income versus total current expenses for the year. This means that in some cases, sub-units have had to draw on their available fund balances to cover their expenses. Globally, these drawdowns will be less than had been expected when the 1985 budget was approved.

B. 1986

The 1986 budget was voted on the assumption that US dollar income would be received at a rate of Sfr. 2.40 to a dollar. Since that time, the US dollar's value has declined against the Swiss franc from 2.73 to 1.90.

Anticipating on the drop of the dollar, the Finance staff have sold dollars forward March 1985 and have been able to protect the Council's income both in 1985 and for the most part of 1986.

The Finance Sub-committee will consider the 1986 budget situation and will recommend ways to protect the 1986 budget against this fall of the US dollar.

C. 1987

The impact of the decline of the US dollar will, however, be significant for the Council's income in 1987. In considering the preliminary budget for that year, the Finance Sub-committee will need to look at the present body of WCC financial policies on the purpose, size and use of Reserves and Fund Balances, in an effort to determine what monies can reasonably be expected to be available in 1987. This will then allow the staff to prioritize the various activities planned for 1987 and to present a balanced budget at the Executive Committee meeting in September.

4. PROGRAMME MATTERS

A. Unit I

Prof. Sabev reported that since the Buenos Aires meeting Unit I had focused on planning for its joint commission meetings to be held in Potsdam, GDR, 12-21 July. The agenda would include a major presentation by the General Secretary and there would be meetings of the four commissions/working groups both separately and together. This would enable inter- and intra-sub-unit issues to be raised while encouraging the process of further integration and cooperation. It was hoped to organize some ecumenical team visits both before and after the meeting.

Dr Gassmann spoke of the heavy workload for Faith and Order in connection with the reception process of the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (BEM) document. So far 110 official responses had been received from member churches, together with 20 from non-member churches and 16 from Roman Catholic Bishops' Conferences and theological seminaries which would be taken into account in the official response of the Roman Catholic Church. In addition to evaluating these responses, Faith and Order continued to reflect on the Common Confession of the Apostolic Faith, on the Integrity of Creation as part of the JPIC process, and on Unity and Renewal.

Dr Stockwell said that the planning of the world conference on Mission and Evangelism had been an important part of the work of CWME. The proposed theme, "Your will be done - mission in Christ's way", had been well received. The location of the meeting had not yet been determined; the possibility of China had been explored but for various reasons had not proved viable. The Orthodox Advisory Group had met in Sofia, Bulgaria, in October 1985 to plan for an important Orthodox mission conference to be held in Greece in late 1987. The Evangelism Advisory Group had met in Atlanta, USA, to plan a consultation on Evangelism in March 1987.

Prof. Sabev said that the Sub-unit on Dialogue had held two consultations in connection with the study on the theological significance of people of other faiths. It had been decided to re-name the study "Theological discoveries in inter-faith dialogue". A booklet would be published and it was hoped to organize some 100 groups to consider the importance of the study and react to it. Guidelines were being developed for Christian/Muslim dialogue. The consultation on the Church and the Jewish People had met at Arnoldshain, near Frankfurt, FRG, in February to deal with questions of Christology.

Prof. Sabev reported that the programme concerns of Church and Society included the elaboration of the theme, "The Integrity of Creation". A consultation had been held in the Philippines, organized jointly with the NCC, on new technology, work and the environment. A new dimension in the discussions had been the emphasis on the victims in South-east Asia of technological progress, nuclear dumping,

dangerous food additives, and the special victimization of women. A meeting with Faith and Order representatives on the Integrity of Creation was planned before the Potsdam meeting. The Sub-unit had arranged a public meeting on the anniversary of the Bhopal disaster at which representatives of Union Carbide and the Indian delegation to the UN were present.

In discussion Archbishop Kirill and Metropolitan Antonie spoke of the urgent need for the churches to receive information about the responses to BEM. Dr Gassmann said that a first volume of official responses would be published within a few weeks and a second later in the year. A progress report and first overview of the main points in the responses received would be presented to the Potsdam meeting, but more time would be needed for a full evaluation. Many churches had indicated that their response was not yet in final form. It was the clear intention of Faith and Order to keep the churches informed about the whole process and the main directions emerging from the responses. The Moderator suggested that the report to the Potsdam meeting be sent to the member churches with a letter from the General Secretary asking churches which had not yet responded to do so as soon as possible.

Metropolitan Gregorios asked that Church and Society and the JPIC process follow up the question of the use of science and technology. These tools were largely controlled by the military establishment and profit-making multinational corporations. How could research into science and technology be made accessible to the poor and hungry?

B. Unit II

Ms Sovik highlighted a number of continuing programmes which were coming to a crucial stage and some new initiatives for the future. She also indicated the intersection of certain programmes with those of other sub-units, units or regional ecumenical organizations.

The Christian Medical Commission study on Health, Healing and Wholeness, which had lasted eight years, was nearing its end. There would be two more regional meetings in 1986, one in Europe and the other in North Asia. In December 1985 more than 60 representatives of national ecumenical health coordinating agencies from 22 countries had met in Achimota, Ghana, to strengthen health care programmes of the churches in their countries. The Commission would meet in Atlanta, USA, in April and would visit Nicaragua and Indians in the USA.

CCIA had been involved in a number of conflict situations, including Korea, Lesotho, Sudan and Haiti. Action had also been taken to support churches and groups working for human rights in various countries, including Liberia, the Philippines and Guyana. The first meeting of the newly constituted Human Rights Advisory Group had been held in January.

The central event for the Programme to Combat Racism was the Harare meeting and the Sub-unit was working on the follow-up with the South African Council of Churches, particularly on a meeting of youth from South Africa with young people from other African countries. PCR continued to be concerned about indigenous people, sanctions and bank loans and was working on "Racism in Theology and Theology against Racism".

CCPD now had new programme secretaries for socio-economic studies and for theological programmes. The Advisory Group on Economic Matters had held its annual meeting on "Work and Unemployment" in October 1985, and plans were being made for the meeting in 1987 to concentrate on "Economic Issues in Africa". The CCPD Officers had initiated a discussion on "Development and JPIC" which would play a central role in the Commission meeting in July.

Staff of CICARWS had been pleased to welcome Dr Klaus Poser, the new director. Preparations were underway for the world consultation on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service in Cyprus, 19-26 November, 1986, at which some 300 participants were expected. Among various programme activities, Ms Sovik drew particular attention to the first joint meeting of Asia secretaries from development, service and mission agencies, held in October 1985. Staff had participated in a study consultation in Hong Kong on Asian migrant workers. A report on the root causes of hunger and food insufficiency in Africa had been prepared. In Europe, a new body had been created to deal with a growing problem: The Churches' Consultation on Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Europe. A second international ecumenical consultation on asylum and protection in Western countries was planned for April 1986 in Zurich, Switzerland. The Human Rights Resources Office for Latin America (HRROLA) had concontinued to monitor events in the region and had participated in a number of meetings and visits, notably the pastoral visit to the churches in Haiti.

The JPIC process was an intersectional point for many programmes in the Council; all units and many sub-units were represented on the staff task force.

Dr Poser spoke of the need for greater involvement with the churches in the Pacific, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. He also stressed the need to rethink the theological basis and emphases of CICARWS. These points would be taken up by the world consultation.

Mr Blanc underlined the importance of the JPIC emphasis for the work of CCPD. It was affecting its theological thinking and its relations with the various networks. The sub-unit was challenged to make this a real ecumenical debate not only in the North but also in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Mr Koshy highlighted the visit he and Mr Weingärtner had paid to North Korea in November on the invitation of the Christian Federation of North Korea and the Government's Committee for the Peaceful Re-unification of Korea. There were some 10,000 Christians in the country, worshipping in houses, but no churches. It was hoped to be able to arrange an encounter between some Christians of North and South Korea.

Dr Amonoo-Lartson, for CMC, said that as a result of the Achimota meeting the work of health agencies had been extended to Angola and Togo. The meeting of the Commission in Atlanta would concentrate on primary health care in industrialized societies and the effect of such societies on minority groups.

Dr Barkat underlined the importance of the Harare meeting and the need to follow up the struggle of youth in South Africa, including the issue of "liberation before education". Although activities centred on South Africa because this was the moment of truth, PCR was also dealing with many other issues around the world. He expressed special appreciation for the help of the US Office.

In discussion Dr Love, Moderator of Unit II, expressed pleasure at the arrival of Ms Sovik, whose enthusiasm was already being felt. Dr Tolen proposed that PCR set up a small workshop with representatives of the African National Congress, other liberation movements, youth organizations and churches to discuss WCC policy in South Africa, including that of visits. Dr Barkat said that discussions with SACC were still at an initial stage. SACC would select the persons who should attend a Harare follow-up meeting. Mr Faa'alo urged that more attention be given to events in the Pacific, particularly its militarization, and the sharing of information with the churches. Dr McCloud asked how the study on AIDS could involve some of the churches, e.g. in the USA, which were beginning to struggle with this issue. Ms Campbell said that the US Office was collecting statements by member churches and the national council in the USA. Dr Love hoped that the member churches would take seriously and respond to the document on the role of the WCC in international affairs which had been sent to them after the Central Committee in Buenos Aires.

C. Unit III

Ms Assaad reported that the five sub-units in Unit III continued to seek creative ways to implement the Unit's common concern for ecumenical learning and promoting local ecumenism; advocacy for women, youth and persons with disabilities; renewal; ministerial formation; and education for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. Since the Central Committee in Buenos Aires there had been several visits geared to meeting representatives of local congregations and finding ways to promote local ecumenism: a combined MECC/WCC staff visit to four countries in the Middle East, ending with a regional workshop on local ecumenism, and extended visits to the Pacific, the Scandinavian countries and to Australia.

The Rev. Heikki Huttunen, new Director of the Youth Sub-unit, said the Sub-unit was going through a period of transition. Work had continued on the theme "Spirituality, Justice and Peace" and efforts were being made to establish contacts with various movements of young people both within and outside the churches. The International Youth Year programme had been conducted with a clear emphasis on the present themes and priorities of the Sub-unit. Positive responses had been received to the proposal of a world youth event and the sub-unit was also concerned to ensure an adequate youth element in the various world conferences. The Sub-unit was involved with the Youth Desk of the South African Council of Churches in following up the Harare meeting on the youth level.

The Rev. Clifford Payne, new Director of the Sub-unit on Education, said that the Working Group at its first meeting in April had decided that the two major emphases of the Sub-unit should be ecumenical learning and education for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. The work of the Sub-unit would increasingly reflect these emphases. A consultation in June would consider case studies of evaluation of the programmes on Family Education, Biblical Studies and Adult Basic Education before making further plans. It had endorsed the recommendation that the consultancy on work with people with disabilities should remain within the Sub-unit. The lack of adequate resources for the Scholarships programme had given rise to grave concern about the future of this work and Mr Payne stressed the need for the Executive Committee to address the problem of financial support for Scholarships and Education as a whole.

Ms Assaad reported that, in the absence of a Director for the Sub-unit on Women, members of the Working Group had agreed to work in closer cooperation with the staff. They had also agreed to take responsibility for the regional workshops on the participation of women in the concern for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. The Sub-unit had taken a major part in planning the visit to the Middle East and the Cairo Workshop. A main concern had been to facilitate the responses from the member churches to the request of the General Secretary concerning the achievements

for women during the UN Decade. Responses were needed by the end of October so that they could be evaluated for the Central Committee in January 1987.

The first in a series of workshops on worship had been held in Scandinavia by the Sub-unit on Renewal and Congregational Life. It had also opened the Worship Resource Centre in the Ecumenical Centre and it was hoped that member churches would contribute worship material. The Sub-unit had been much involved with Faith and Order in the revision of the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle. It was expected that this would be ready for printing by the end of 1986. There had been a steady growth in work with lay centres and academies. The world conferences of the next six years would be included in their curricula and many of them had taken up the topic of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

The Programme on Theological Education had continued work on "Theology by the People". It was also working with the Vatican Congregation on Catholic Education on a booklet on ecumenical formation for use in the training of clergy, ministers and pastoral workers. Workshops for Bible study enablers had been arranged with the Bible Study Desk in Nigeria, India, Burma and Indonesia. Two consultations had been held, one in Jamaica on Caribbean theology and one in Egypt on issues related to baptism and the BEM document.

In discussion, Archbishop Kirill spoke of the importance of a world youth event and the need to clarify the role of the WCC in Christian youth activities. It was important to help youth to understand what it means to be a Christian today. He suggested that the Youth Sub-unit should find ways to become a school for ecumenical leadership by helping young people to go to Bossey and to serve as interns on the staff. Dr Tolen stressed the importance of stewards' programmes as an ecumenical learning process. Mr Voksø pleaded that the basic programmes of Christian education of children, young people and laity should not be swallowed up by new concerns. Metropolitan Gregorios spoke of the difficulty for WCC staff to serve a great variety of churches which see their problems in different ways. He felt that the spiritual needs of the Orthodox churches were not being sufficiently served.

In response Ms Assaad said that it was hoped to develop a youth internship programme for various sub-units and a policy paper was being prepared. She hoped that the consultation on ecumenical learning in June would clarify the relationship between basic Christian education and ecumenical learning. It had become clear to her during the Middle East team visit that to be ecumenical it is necessary to be deeply rooted in one's own church. Ecumenical learning must be an integral part of Christian education. It was also hoped to hold a consultation on Orthodox spirituality.

D. General Secretariat

The General Secretary reported that the construction of the new wing of the Ecumenical Centre was going well and should be completed early in 1987. The Ecumenical Institute was now fully staffed. It was hoped to have an appraisal of the work of Bossey after 40 years of existence at the next meeting. The Library would soon have a new multilingual computer system which would enable it to be in touch with many libraries around the world. This would include books, periodicals and archives. It was hoped next year to devote time to making ecumenical history more accessible.

The Working Group on Communication had met in Rwanda in January and held a workshop on Ecumenical Communication and Culture. The "annual report" was being published as a special issue of One World, in English, French, German and Spanish, and it was hoped that members would stimulate publication in other languages. There was growing collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation on communication services. Work was being done on an oral history programme. It might be necessary to look again at the possible preparation of a third volume of the history of the ecumenical movement. There was a plan to produce an ecumenical dictionary. Attempts were being made to make The Ecumenical Review a more effective theological instrument of the whole WCC. The General Secretary also referred to the work of the Office for Income Coordination and Development and the US Office.

Many comments had been received from Central Committee members about the meeting in Buenos Aires and there had been some staff evaluation. Many suggestions contradicted each other and there seemed to be no escape from the tension between an event, the encounter with the churches, and business sessions. It had been suggested that meetings outside Geneva should focus on events, whereas those in the headquarters should concentrate on business. The General Secretary asked whether members wanted an overview of the whole work of the WCC or to concentrate on a few specific items.

Finally, Dr Castro referred to the need for a first discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting of the procedures for the election of a new General Secretary.

In discussion Dr McCloud expressed appreciation for the special issue of One World and asked if the last issue of 1986 could be used to provide a report on programmatic activities to Central Committee in January 1987. In response to a question from Archbishop Kirill, Prof. Sabev said that work on Ideology was being undertaken in both Units I and II. A questionnaire about experience in Christian/Marxist dialogue had been sent to member churches and individuals, and responses were being received. A report would be presented to a later meeting within the framework of the Dialogue Sub-unit. Mr Blanc added that Dr Oracion had joined the staff in November 1985 and was working on the CCPD/Unit II aspect of the issue.

With regard to the Central Committee, Dr Tolen and Dr Love said it was important that enough time be allowed in plenary sessions and unit committees for discussion on implementation of policies adopted by the Assembly. There was also a plea for work in sub-unit groups. Dr Wilson asked that stewards be invited to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. She suggested that, in response to the addresses of the Moderator and General Secretary, members be invited to send written comments and questions to be addressed by a panel. She also hoped that small groups would be retained as a means of exchange of information. Mr Voksø and Mr Ashmall stressed the need for the Central Committee to be clear about what was expected of it at any particular time in the meeting. The decision-making process should not be carried into general discussion.

E. Vital and coherent theology

A report on the concern for a vital and coherent theology prepared by Prof. José Miguez-Bonino had been circulated to members before the meeting. The document was referred without discussion to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, in the absence of Metropolitan Gregorios, Dr Nababan reported on behalf of the Sub-committee as follows:

After a preliminary discussion the Sub-committee recommends:

a) that the report of Prof. J. Miguez-Bonino be received with appreciation;

b) that the General Secretary and staff share with the members of the Executive Committee their suggestions on follow-up;

c) that further comments and proposals from Executive Committee members be invited in view of another discussion in September 1986;

d) that a final decision be taken at the next meeting of the Executive Committee regarding the form and procedure of sharing Prof. Miguez-Bonino's report with Central Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

F. Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Mr Koshy presented a staff document setting out the history of the JPIC process since the Sixth Assembly and outlining proposals for future action (Appendix III). A fuller paper of background material had also been circulated to the Executive Committee. A Consultant, Dr Ulrich Duchrow, was helping to develop plans and coordinate the contributions of the many sub-units involved. It was proposed that the first consultation in September 1986 be on the issue of covenanting. It was also suggested, particularly in response to the proposal of the German churches for a "Council for Peace", that a "European (or Northern) Assembly on Peace with Justice" be held. The suggestion followed discussions with representatives of the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Kirchentag.

Ms Sovik added that the World Alliance of Reformed Churches had welcomed the WCC initiative for ecumenical covenanting on JPIC and, as already indicated by the General Secretary, had offered staff help in the process.

Mr Ashmall expressed appreciation for the exciting process outlined in the document which was important both for what it said and also for its potential. The JPIC process reflects the concern and responsibility of all humankind, but the churches must remember that they are only one section of humankind and their input must be very well planned. Metropolitan Gregorios stressed the importance of wide Christian collaboration and hoped the Roman Catholic Church could be persuaded to cooperate fully in the process. The documents were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Nababan, on behalf of the Programme Sub-committee, reported as follows:

a) The Sub-committee expresses appreciation for the steps that have been taken and plans developed in relation to the covenanting process for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. As the General Secretary stated in his letter of invitation to the churches, "we have begun an exciting process and have entered into a new stage in our ecumenical journey".

b) The Sub-committee takes note of the new emphases and special programmes being developed in the various sub-units in relation to JPIC.

c) Responding to the invitation through the Joint Working Group, the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity (Vatican) has named its representatives "to observe the process of preparation and contribute to it as possible, for an appropriate time, in order to be able to help the Roman Catholic Church towards a decision about the possibility and extent of participation" (JWG minutes). The Executive of the JWG has also indicated that JPIC can be placed in the framework of discussions related to "the conciliar fellowship of local churches truly united" (Nairobi Assembly).

   The Sub-committee welcomes this response of the Roman Catholic Church and hopes that this will lead to full participation in the JPIC. It recommends that the General Secretary discuss this matter also during his forthcoming meeting with the Pope.

d) The Sub-committee takes note of the working paper presented as background material with the framework for the ecumenical process of covenanting and the initial hypotheses on the ecclesiological dimensions of the ecumenical process of covenanting on Justice,

Peace and the Integrity of Creation. The Sub-committee encourages the members of the Executive Committee to send their comments on these to the General Secretary to be taken into account in further discussions.

e) The Sub-committee gives general approval to the plans for the first consultation which is to be followed by the first meeting of the Advisory Group.

f) The Sub-committee reaffirms general support for the initiatives for a "Council for Peace" and expresses the hope that there will be more clarity regarding the concepts and process.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Programme Sub-committee.

Advisory Group on JPIC

It was noted that the Central Committee in Buenos Aires had agreed that an Advisory Group on JPIC be appointed to advise the WCC on the implementation of the priority "to engage member churches in a conciliar process of mutual commitment (covenant) to justice, peace and the integrity of creation". The functions of this Group would be:

- to assist in the deepening of the biblical and theological reflections on the key concepts in JPIC;
- to assist in the planning and preparation of the studies, consultations, etc. under JPIC;
- to assist in the planning and preparation of the world conference on JPIC;
- to advise on ways in which the conciliar process of justice, peace and the integrity of creation can be strengthened and enhanced;
- to report to the Unit II Executive Group and WCC Executive Committee.

Ms Sovik said it was proposed that the Advisory Group should include 50% representatives from commissions of all units and 50% key persons from networks in various places. It should also include two consultant representatives from the Roman Catholic Church or, in case of full co-responsibility, 50% voting members of that Church. It was foreseen that the Group would meet once a year and in conjunction with an international meeting.

In a closed session Dr Talbot presented proposals from the Nominations Sub-committee for membership of the Advisory Group. The Sub-committee had considered names suggested by the Unit II Executive Group and proposed some changes and additions in order to ensure better balances and a link with the Central Committee. After discussion, it was agreed to appoint an Advisory Group of 20 persons (Appendix IV). The

Moderator asked for the respective member churches to be duly consulted and informed about the composition of the Group.

There was a request that, when such groups are to be set up in future, the General Secretary should ensure that as far as possible the Executive Committee be informed in advance of the procedures and proposals so that members may participate more fully in the process.

5. RELATIONSHIPS

A. Roman Catholic Church (RCC)

The Rev. Jacques Maury, WCC Co-Moderator of the Joint Working Group (JWG), presented his report on the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops of the RCC, held in Rome, 24 November to 8 December, 1985, which he had attended as the WCC Observer. He had been impressed by the openness of the meeting and the pastoral concern of the bishops for the concrete situations of their local church. He had also been struck by the extreme caution which had prevailed in the formulating of decisions with a universal impact. This seemed to be provoked by the hierarchical system of government of the RCC. However, the Synod had clearly reaffirmed and celebrated the work of the Second Vatican Council and the commitment of the RCC to ecumenism. Mr Maury felt that the WCC was at a psychologically important moment in relations with the WCC. There was a need to discuss the real difficulties which still existed, including the Roman Catholic system of government, ecclesiology and the issue of the papacy, but it was essential to move ahead with the dialogue. He suggested that one of the objectives of the General Secretary's visit to the Pope in April should be to find ways of going forward together. The WCC's priorities in relations with the RCC might include common witness, multilateral and bilateral dialogues, and the responsibilities of the JWG. Mr Maury asked whether it would be possible to establish a more adequate budget for the JWG and to create a post for a full-time Secretary responsible for relations with the RCC, in order to make visible the WCC's commitment to this relationship.

Metropolitan Gregorios welcomed the fact that the Synod had not tried to impose new limits to the ecumenical movement, and that the principle of collegiality had been reaffirmed. However, he pointed to the problems raised by Pope John Paul II's position that only in the See of Rome can there be unity in the Church. Archbishop Kirill expressed concern about the revival of Uniatism in the RCC. He felt this was incompatible with openness to ecumenical concepts today. Mr Maury agreed that this problem had been present in the Synod. It needed to be resolved both within the WCC and in ecumenical dialogue.

Prof. Sabev introduced a revised version of the Aide-mémoire on Roman Catholic Relationships which had been updated in response to the request of the Executive Committee in Buenos Aires and in the light of the Synod of Bishops. While welcoming most of the actions of the Synod, the document included some critical notes such as the apparent downgrading of the concept of "the People of God", the emphasis on the hierarchical structure of the RCC and the role of the Pope in shaping its attitude towards ecumenism, and the lack of clarity on the place of the non-Roman Catholic churches in the koinonia of the Universal Church.

Dr Talbot suggested that the Aide-mémoire should mention the World Day of Prayer, a very ecumenical movement which involved millions of women and motivated them to undertake common projects.

Both documents were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Nababan presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee. In discussion it was pointed out that the report did not refer to the critical remarks made during the plenary presentation and deliberations on Roman Catholic relationships, and agreed that reference should be made to these in the minutes. With one addition, the report of the Sub-committee was received as follows and its recommendations accepted:

a) The Sub-committee recommends:

1) that the report of Jacques Maury and the Aide-mémoire on Roman Catholic Relationships be received with appreciation;

2) that these materials be used in the ongoing process of assessment of the ecumenical situation and WCC/RCC cooperation;

3) that the Aide-mémoire which has the status of a staff document be sent to the members of the WCC Central Committee as requested in Buenos Aires along with the report of Jacques Maury (without recommendations) and serve as reference documents and instruments to stimulate discussion/evaluation;

4) that in the light of these two papers the Executive Committee take note of and welcome the positive achievements of the Synod, such as:

i) reaffirmation and promotion of Vatican II;

ii) the decision to continue the ecumenical dialogue;

iii) affirmation of the role of the Bishops' Conferences and their significance for local ecumenism;

iv) the willingness to cooperate in common Christian witness and social diakonia of the churches today.

5) that the recommendations of Jacques Maury concerning visibility of the JWG, adequate budget and appointment of staff for RCC relations be submitted to the General Secretary for further consideration; and

6) that another assessment of WCC/RCC relationships be made at the Executive Committee meeting in September 1986.

b) The Sub-committee suggests:

1) that efforts be continued to enable the fullest possible Roman Catholic participation in the JPIC process and that this issue be on the agenda of the next JWG meeting;

2) that the General Secretary be advised to take up during his audience with Pope John Paul II in April 1986 JPIC, the Harare meeting and its follow-up, and collaboration with the RCC in the light of decisions of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops.

c) With regard to the Roman Catholic initiative for a Meeting of Prayer for Peace, the Sub-committee recommends that:

1) the General Secretary's action and the WCC announcement of 4 February 1986 be noted;

2) the "efforts for common prayer in each place" during the International Year of Peace and common initiatives by local churches be encouraged, particularly through the long-established Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Prayer that presently exist; and

3) the details of preparation for the meeting (dates, place, participants and programme) be further discussed and clarified in direct negotiations.

B. National councils and regional bodies

The General Secretary reported that after the Central Committee in Buenos Aires it had appeared that the regional organizations were not yet ready for the formal meeting with the WCC which had been proposed. It was now suggested that there be a one-day meeting between the WCC and representatives of the regions to consider regional relationships and draw up an agenda for a formal meeting in about 18 months' time.

Invitations to the NCC Consultation, to be held in Geneva in October, had been sent to three categories of councils: associate councils of the WCC, those affiliated only to CWME, and those not officially related to the WCC but in working relationship with it. Some representatives of churches in countries where there is as yet no council had also been invited. Some 130 participants were expected. A regional planning group would be working by mail with staff in Geneva. Themes for discussion would include the ecclesiological significance of councils, the role of NCCs in promoting ecumenism, and relationships with the Roman Catholic Church. Plans had been discussed in the Joint Working Group and the report of the Consultation on the Significance and Contribution of Councils of Churches in the Ecumenical Movement, held in Venice in 1982, would be a preparatory document.

In discussion it was suggested that the consultation would be facilitated by the holding of regional meetings first. Ms Sovik pointed out that there was no budget for such meetings but said that a number of sub-regional meetings of NCCs which had already been held had contributed to the process. The General Secretary suggested that the first two days of the consultation might be set aside for meetings of regional groups. Ms Abayasekera asked if NCCs could be invited to undertake a process of self-study before the consultation.

6. PUBLIC ISSUES

A. International Year of Peace

Mr Koshy introduced a note on the International Year of Peace declared by the United Nations in 1986. Archbishop Kirill referred to the appeal of leaders of the Christian churches and of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists in the USSR to all believers in the world for a positive response to the statement made by General Secretary Gorbachev in January, proposing the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, the renunciation by the USSR and USA of a first strike and of the development of space weapons, and provision for international inspection. The USSR had already taken three important steps with moratoria on nuclear testing, on space weapons and on further deployment of long-range missiles. Many of the ideas in the statement had been mentioned for the first time in discussions within the Russian Orthodox Church and the Church saw this as a significant sign of the growing influence of the Church on wider public circles. It was important that the statement be understood and supported.

This proposal was seen as a contribution to the International Year of Peace, and it was agreed to appoint the following group to draft a statement: Metropolitan Gregorios, Archbishop Kirill and Dr Love.

At a later session Dr Love, on behalf of the group, introduced a proposed statement. After discussion and amendment, the statement was adopted as follows:

1) The United Nations has declared 1986 the International Year of Peace and the nations of the world are celebrating it. The fortieth session of the General Assembly of the UN specially stressed the role of non-governmental organizations including religious bodies in promoting international dialogue, cooperation and building up of trust and mutual understanding.

2) During the past few years, mass movements and organizations for justice and peace in various parts of the world have succeeded in bringing about a wide awareness of the threats to peace that the world faces today. Several member churches of the WCC, national and regional bodies representing them and a number of organizations in which Christians actively take part, have made special plans for the International Year of Peace to kindle hope, to inspire mutual trust, to reduce tensions, to help nations negotiate with more give than take, and to promote greater awareness of our common security and our shared destiny as one human race.

3) The Sixth Assembly of the WCC underlined clearly the relationship between peace and justice and stated "The peoples of the world stand in need of peace and justice. Peace is not just the absence of war. Peace cannot be built on foundations of injustice. Peace requires a new international order based on justice for and within all nations, and respect for the God-given humanity of every person. Peace is, as the Prophet Isaiah has taught us, the effect of righteousness".

   The Assembly called us as a family of churches to covenant together to pursue justice, peace and the integrity of creation. In view of the new quality of threats to justice, peace and the integrity of creation, the new critical issues related to them, and the signs of hope, the churches are called to new forms of response at all levels of their life: local, national, regional and international.

4) At this point we would like to emphasize

   a) the relation between the arms race, socio-economic injustice and disruption of the environment;

   b) the urgent need to make earth and space free from nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction and to start nuclear disarmament now, and the equally important concern about militarization and its consequences;

   c) the need to rescue modern science-technology, humanity's basic tool, from the service of war and profit and ensure its use to promote the best

the best interests of humanity including the elimination of poverty;

d) the need for implementing a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and stopping all testing of nuclear weapons forthwith. It is to be noted that on 20 February 1986 the USSR formally declared its willingness to accept on-site inspections and that there are now no technical barriers to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

5) In this connection, the Executive Committee of the WCC notes with interest the proposals on nuclear disarmament made by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR on 15 January 1986, at the beginning of the International Year of Peace. The three-stage proposal, with a view to eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2000, merits serious attention from all concerned for peace. The Executive Committee hopes that this proposal, along with other serious, reasonable and specific proposals from the other nuclear powers, will lead to decisive negotiated actions for eliminating nuclear weapons.

6) The Executive Committee welcomes the initiative of Pope John Paul II in calling for an intensive effort of prayer for peace by Christians and other people of good will during the year.

7) The Executive Committee calls upon all member churches to observe 16 June 1986 as a World Day of Prayer and Fasting remembering the sacrifice, agony and travail of all who died in Soweto ten years ago, and upholding the struggle for justice in South Africa.

8) The Executive Committee reiterates the call to the churches to continue to give special attention to the root causes of war, mainly to economic injustice, oppression and exploitation and to the consequences of increasing tension including violation of human rights. It urges the churches to intensify their efforts for peace in the International Year of Peace and to witness to peace and justice through prayer, worship and concrete involvement.

B. Southern Africa

Mr Koshy referred to the Harare Declaration by leaders of churches in Western Europe, North America and South Africa, who had met in December 1985 on the invitation of the WCC to discuss the situation in South Africa. It was agreed to appoint the following group to draft a statement commending the Harare Declaration to the churches: Dr Wilson, Dr McCloud, Dr Tolen.

At a later session Dr Wilson, on behalf of the group, introduced the following proposed message to the member churches, which was adopted:

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches received with gratitude and hope the report from the emergency meeting called for in Harare, Zimbabwe (December 1985) and commends its implementation to you, the member churches.

We, the Executive Committee, affirm that the KAIROS time (the moment of truth) is here now, both for the world community and for South Africa. This is the moment in which we are called to speak and act, reaffirming our common conviction that apartheid stands condemned by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

NOW IS THE TIME

1) Let the churches urge the international community to prevent the extension, the rolling over, or renewal of bank loans to the South African government, banks, corporations and para-statal institutions.

2) Let the churches use our influence to have appropriate bodies, including the international community, apply immediate and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa.

3) Let the churches demonstrate our sustained and increased support for movements working for the liberation of South Africa, both inside and outside that country.

4) Let the churches commend to our members the day of 16 June, 1986 as a World Day of Prayer and Fasting, remembering the sacrifice, agony, and travail of all who died in Soweto ten years ago. We earnestly request the member churches to use this day as one for ecumenical intercessory prayer, fasting, education and action.

   Let 16 June be the focal point, worldwide, to focus the attention of both the churches and the public on those who have suffered undeservedly, and on the hope for a transformation of an unjust system.

   Let the prayers and fasting be a public witness where possible.

5) Let the churches be aware of the international gathering of youth in June 1986 called by the South African Council of Churches and the WCC to express solidarity with South African sisters and brothers, and to stay informed about the volatile and changing

situation. Young people in South Africa, who are bearing much of the brunt of the liberation struggle, are also in need of the prayers of the whole body of Christ.

Let our prayers, fasting, education and action reflect Jesus Christ, the hope and peace of all the world.

C. Other issues

Mr Koshy introduced notes for information on the Middle East, the Philippines, Haiti, Uganda and Sri Lanka.

Ms Abayasekera spoke of the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka, where violence was spreading. She asked if there could be a staff or team visit to the country. Mr Maury, who had been a member of the pastoral delegation which visited Haiti in February, underlined that the revolt against the Duvalier government resulted from an explosion of anger of the poor against an oppressive régime. There was, however, deep anxiety about the future. Ms Kaddu said that the situation in Uganda was improving under the new government and stressed that the major concern of all Ugandans was for peace. She hoped it would be possible to arrange a team visit. Archbishop Athanasios reminded the Committee of the crucial importance for peace in the Middle East of solving the problem of the Palestinians.

7. WORLD CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

A. World conferences

The General Secretary reported that the staff group which was coordinating plans for all the world conferences and consultations felt that the amount of work involved and the demands on the churches required some radical changes. He asked the Executive Committee to consider the possibility of bringing together the conferences on Faith and Order, and Mission and Evangelism as a major event on Unity and Mission, in 1988 or 1989, and to think of the JPIC conference as a covenanting process that could culminate in conjunction with the Seventh Assembly.

Several members agreed that too many world meetings would create a strain on the churches in terms of finance, personnel and work, and supported the proposal to combine some of them. Dr Stockwell reported that CWME Commissioners were open to the possibility. Dr Gassmann said that while some of the Faith and Order constituency saw creative possibilities in combining the two conferences, the Moderator of the Commission had strong reservations. The question was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Nababan presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee as follows:

In view of the five planned WCC World Conferences and Consultations and the WCC Assembly, one each year from 1986 through 1991, the Executive Committee shares the concerns expressed by member churches that the processes of preparation for such large meetings at such short intervals place an undue burden both on the member churches and on the staff responsible to assist in the preparation. Therefore, the Sub-committee recommends:

a) That the planned 1990 JPIC conference be held in conjunction with the 1991 Assembly. The exact nature of that conjunction should be determined no later than the January 1987 Central Committee meeting.

b) That the planned 1988 World Conference on Mission and Evangelism and the planned 1989 Conference on Faith and Order be reconsidered with a view to holding a single joint Conference on Unity and Mission in 1989. To that end the Executive Committee strongly encourages the Commissions on Faith and Order and on World Mission and Evangelism to consider this proposal at the Unit I meeting in Potsdam (July 1986), and there hopefully to set in motion a joint planning process for the joint conference.

   It is noted that for handling the distinct Faith and Order and CWME matters, both commissions will deal with these in their commission meetings the previous year, 1988, and also in separate sessions in the conference itself.

c) That members of Central Committee be distributed in the various world conferences so that the Central and Executive Committees would have direct knowledge of the ethos and orientation of these conferences, when assessing them.

The Executive Committee <u>received</u> this report and <u>accepted</u> its recommendations.

B. <u>World consultations</u>

Following the General Secretary's introduction, it was also suggested that the consultations on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service and Resource Sharing might be combined. Dr Nababan thought that resource sharing should not be the subject of a separate consultation but should be brought into all the world meetings. Dr McCloud underlined the importance of the sharing of non-material resources. Dr Poser pointed out that the plans for the Inter-Church Aid Consultation in November 1986 were well underway. Although resource sharing was one element, the purpose of the Inter-Church Aid consultation was to raise fundamental questions of principle with regard to aid questions and the role of the WCC and CICARWS, rather than to discuss technical details of the resource sharing system. The General Secretary indicated that the Resource Sharing Consultation had a broader purpose, namely,

to secure some ecumenical commitments that might improve resource sharing, whether or not such sharing comes through WCC channels.

Dr Stockwell referred to a staff paper indicating the relationship between the two consultations. That on ICARWS would make a fresh analysis of the world in which the churches and CICARWS are called to serve and its goal would be a redefinition of a theological basis for Christian service. The emphasis would thus be on the formulation of a new vision and challenge. The Consultation on Resource Sharing would aim to reach an agreement on an ecumenical discipline for the sharing of the resources God has entrusted to the Church universal. This would require a common understanding of the theological basis for sharing and community and an agreement on the instruments for sharing. The Resource Sharing Consultation would benefit from the reflection on service and the ecumenical sharing of resources at the ICARWS Consultation. A certain unavoidable overlap of participants would also assure continuity. There was close coordination at staff level in the preparation of the two consultations.

The documents on the two consultations were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Nababan presented the report of the Sub-committee as follows:

a) The November 1986 ICARWS Consultation will take place as scheduled. It is recommended that its agenda include resource sharing issues and also that in advance it be agreed that certain participants in the ICARWS Consultation also be participants in the Resource Sharing Consultation in 1987, to assure a clear link between the two.

b) The October 1987 Resource Sharing Consultation will take place as scheduled, but it is suggested that the planning committee at its late August meeting consider reducing the number of participants to about 100, and that a report be brought to the September 1986 Executive Committee meeting responding to this suggestion. Also, the reports to the Executive Committee should include recommendations as to how the resource sharing concerns will be integrated into the future world conferences and the 1991 Assembly.

The Executive Committee <u>received</u> this report and <u>accepted</u> its recommendations.

8. SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

Mr Perkins introduced a document on the location of the Seventh Assembly. Nine possible sites in six countries had been suggested and had been visited: Hamburg, Birmingham, Perth, Sydney, Canberra, Manila, Tokyo, Kyoto and Seoul. Each had different opportunities, limitations and facilities. Before a decision could be made, guidance was needed from the Executive Committee on the following questions: a) How should the world consultations and conferences be related to the Assembly and what consequences will they have for the shape and programme of the Assembly? b) What should be the relative emphasis on celebration, business, major theme(s), etc.? c) What should be the duration of the Assembly? d) How many delegates should there be?

An official and enthusiastic invitation had been received from the churches in Great Britain and the British Council of Churches. There was an invitation from the Evangelical Church in Germany but the church would prefer to host the Central Committee in 1988. Formal invitations were expected from the churches in Australia and Korea. It was therefore recommended that the final decision be postponed until September.

A number of criteria would enter into a decision: a) the significance of the Assembly for the churches in the city, country and region in relation to the local/national situation; b) geographical location; c) the ecumenical situation in the country and city, and the support and enthusiasm of member churches; d) finances; e) suitability of facilities. Some general guidelines could be suggested:

- the issues faced in the local/national context should be an important factor and should influence the choice of theme(s);
- the venues of the world consultations and conferences are important considerations;
- strong local/national church support is essential;
- the best facilities would be a site where all meeting places, including the plenary hall, are at the same location;
- there should be housing for at least 1000 persons together, as close as possible to the meeting site;
- catering must be possible for all participants at the meeting site or the place of accommodation;
- dates and time of year should be flexible, depending on the location.

The document was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Nababan presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee as follows:

a) The Sub-committee recommends, in the light of the information now available, that a decision on location and dates be postponed to the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

b) The Sub-committee affirms that an assurance of visas for all delegates in 1991 is an essential requirement.

c) The Sub-committee recommends that, among the locations from which invitations have been received or can be expected, preference should be given first to Australia/Asia and second to Western Europe, since two of the previous Assemblies have been held there.

d) The Sub-committee affirms the proposed criteria (see above) with the addition of media accessibility and coverage.

e) The theme should emerge from the world conferences, from the JPIC process and from the context in which the Assembly is held. Proposals from member churches will also be considered.

f) There are three basic elements of an Assembly: celebration, ecumenical learning and decision/policy-making. There needs to be adequate time for unhurried deliberations and decision/policy-making. Plenary presentations should be limited.

g) Fourteen days should be seen as a maximum time for the Assembly itself, not counting travel time and pre- or post-Assembly meetings.

h) The number of delegates should be kept as low as possible but should not exceed 1000.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations of the Programme Sub-committee.

9. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Talbot presented the report of the Nominations Sub-committee as follows:

A. Membership of Central Committee

The Most Rev. John Allin has retired as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA and has been succeeded by the Most Rev. Edmond Lee Browning. Bishop Allin has resigned his membership of the Central Committee and has proposed that Bishop Browning be elected to replace him. The Sub-committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed to approve this nomination for action by Central Committee in January 1987.

B. Membership of Commissions and Working Groups

a. Vacancies

Several vacancies were identified by the Central Committee in Buenos Aires which were to be filled by the Executive Committee:

i) Faith and Order Plenary Commission: The Church of Cyprus, for which a place was reserved, has proposed Dr Andreas Mitsides, director of the Archbishop's office and a Vancouver delegate. The Sub-committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that he be appointed.

ii) Christian Medical Commission: To fill the two places reserved for Oriental Orthodox members, the Sub-committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed to appoint Ms Tsehaynech Mesele, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and Dr Matta Albanna, Syrian Orthodox Church.

iii) Programme to Combat Racism: A place was reserved for an Eastern Orthodox woman from Latin America, but in spite of strong efforts, no proposal has been forthcoming. The Sub-committee recommended and the Executive Committee agreed that this vacancy be carried over into the process of review of membership (see below).

b. Review of membership

The Executive Committee in February 1984 agreed that the "membership (of commissions and working groups) be reviewed at the 1987 Central Committee meeting".

The Executive Committee in February 1985 agreed that "where vacancies occur in these commissions and working groups now or in the future (current vacancies or those due to resignation or non-participation), they should be filled following the principle that the numbers of Orthodox, women and youth should be increased".

It is therefore proposed that the Executive Committee request the General Secretary to bring to the January meeting proposed revisions in the membership of commissions and working groups, taking into account all comments made by the Executive and Central Committees about imbalances in the present lists and the principle stated above regarding replacements. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

It is further recommended that any members who have been unable to attend two consecutive meetings of the commission or working group to which they had been appointed be replaced. (A similar rule already exists for members of Central Committee.) The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

10. ELECTION OF GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr Wilson proposed that three members of the Executive Committee be appointed to review the procedures for the election of the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, taking into consideration historic procedures and practices of the Council, the experience of the immediate past Nominating Committee on which seven of this Executive served, and the document submitted by Bernard Thorogood (with comments by the Moderator), and submit proposals for procedures to the September Executive Committee meeting. This was agreed. It was further agreed to appoint the following members to undertake this review: Dr Wilson, Metropolitan Gregorios and Mr Ashmall.

11. STAFFING PROCEDURES

On Tuesday, 11 March, there was a special closed session requested by members of the Executive Committee, with only the General Secretary present, to discuss matters of general concern regarding staffing procedures and appointments.

In a later closed session, Dr Talbot introduced the present and proposed personnel procedures. A number of amendments were made. It was agreed that the document as amended should be circulated to Central Committee members with a request for comments and suggestions and that it should be discussed further at the meeting of the Executive Committee in September.

Dr Talbot reported that the Staffing Sub-committee had suggested that the Central Committee might authorize the Executive Committee to appoint staff below the level of sub-unit director. Names would then be brought to the Central Committee not for ratification but for information.

Dr Love referred to the need for long-range plans to create balances in the staff. She proposed that five members of the Executive Committee work with the General Secretary:

a) to provide long-range plans for balancing the composition of staff with regard to regions, sub-regions, confessions and gender;

b) to review the staff evaluation procedures of the Council;

c) to review suggestions received from Central Committee members regarding the document on present and proposed personnel procedures for staff grades 6-10.

This was agreed.

It was further agreed that the following members of the Executive Committee for this ad hoc assignment should be: Archbishop Kirill, Dr McCloud, Dr Nababan, Ms Skuse and Dr Tolen.

In a later open session, it was reported that the Executive Committee had accepted a proposal by Dr McCloud that "in submitting to the member churches and Central Committee members the vacancies declared here by the Executive Committee, there should be a statement at the end of the list of vacancies describing the Executive Committee's intent to redress imbalances in the staff - regional, sub-regional, confessional and gender - to the extent possible in filling those vacancies, with specific attention given to the inclusion of Orthodox, Africans and women. Nominations to fill any of these positions are to be made by the Executive Committee."

Dr McCloud had further proposed that a letter be sent to Central Committee and members of all commissions and working groups informing them of this action of the Executive Committee and its implications for the future staffing of the Council. This had been agreed.

12. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. Allocation of interest

In the light of the results of 1985, it is recommended that the interest earned in 1985, after addition of gain (or loss) of exchange, be allocated as follows:

- interest earned on Swiss franc funds to those funds;
- interest earned on US dollar funds to those funds.

It is also proposed that, as in the past two years, interest earned on the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve be credited to the Operating Balance of the Council.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

2. 1986 budget

The Finance Sub-committee recommends that the budget adopted in July 1985 remain unchanged in spite of the decline of the US dollar and that loss of the US dollar income due to this drop be covered from the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

3. Special funding

Reports received and actions taken include:

a) International Youth Year (IYY): IYY balances are sufficient to cover outstanding expenses for the 1986 Africa regional meeting. If costs of the September global meeting in the Pacific for evaluation and planning remain within the budget and still cannot be met by use of income,

fund balances, and the designated Youth reserve of Sfr. 47,243, the Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee authorize the use of the Operating Balance of the WCC to cover any remaining shortfall (Sfr. 42,750).

This was agreed.

b) Persons with disabilities: Current income projections total Sfr. 308,131 towards the three-year authorization to seek Sfr. 450,000.

c) Government funding: Agencies have provided Sfr.112,620 toward this consultancy. Nc further funds will be sought. The General Secretary is requested to bring a report to the next Executive Committee with the terms of reference, duration and scope of this consultancy.

d) World conferences and consultations: OICD and the Resource Sharing Office have begun to schedule askings for the Sfr. 385,000 world consultation authorization. A funding schedule including world conferences of CWME, Faith and Order, JPIC and the Seventh Assembly will be brought before the next Executive Committee, pending decisions at this Executive regarding it.

e) Seventh Assembly financing: Member churches will be consulted in April regarding their early planning to handle the cost of delegates' travel and accommodation expenses, and further support of the Seventh Assembly. The funding schedule to be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee will incorporate known responses but will remain contingent on decisions regarding place, size and programme style.

f) "Learning in a World of Many Faiths, Cultures and Ideologies": Faced with a shortfall on Year One of this three-year contractual obligation, the Sub-committee recommends that:

i) a procedure be established to assure that the Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration review and initial all contracts which commit the Council financially before they are executed by the two necessary authorized signatories;

ii) that the Year One shortfall of up to Sfr. 35,000 be covered from the Operating Balance of the WCC as a one-time measure, and that

iii) remaining costs for Years Two and Three (1 September 1986 - 31 August 1988) be introduced into the budget of the Sub-unit on Education, beginning with the 1987 budget.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

4. Review of staff salaries

In accordance with the Staff Rules and Regulations, the cost of living index in Geneva is reviewed twice a year, on 30 June and on 31 December. On 31 December 1985 the index was 111.0 points, an increase of 5.5 points since the last salary increase on 30 June 1984 (105.5 points). This represents an increase of 5.2%. The matter has been discussed with the representatives of SRG and with SEG and it is recommended that an increase be applied to all salaries. This amount is provided for in the 1986 budget. The Finance Sub-committee, recognizing the financial implications of this proposal on the 1987 budget, recommends to the Executive Committee that an increase of salaries of 5.2% be granted as from 1 April 1986.

This was agreed.

5. 1987 income projections

Programme contributions have been estimated by sub-unit and by department on the basis of 1986 pledges in original currency, or on the basis of 1985 actual contributions in original currency in the absence of such pledges. These amounts were converted to Swiss francs at the rates agreed by the Investment Advisory Committee:

US$ 1 = Sfr. 1.90
DM 1 = Sfr. 0.85

The number of anticipated donors seems stable, and a slight increase in unit-level block grants is expected. Without considering investment income or transfers, income from US dollar programme contributions alone will result in a loss of more than Sfr. 820,000 compared to 1986.

Undesignated income for 1987 is projected approximately at Sfr. 6,200,000. This figure requires an overall increase in giving to offset the estimated Sfr. 600,000 loss on undesignated dollar income, or a significant rise in non-dollar exchange rates. For dollars to realize the same Swiss francs as in 1985, dollar donors would have to increase giving by more than 20% in 1987 over 1985, considered highly unlikely.

6. Income development

The Sub-committee considered a preliminary report on a funding initiative to develop new income. Explorations are underway as to the possibility of launching an Ecumenical Leadership Development Endowment in memory of Willem Visser 't Hooft in this first year following his death, the aim of which would be to assure global ecumenical leadership resources for the future, and to encourage the Christian development and witness of youth throughout the world.

The objective of the fund will be to provide the WCC with adequate and sustained financial resources in support of this goal.

The endowment campaign will be based on national committees. While not excluding church funds, donor targets will be primarily individuals, including bequests, educational institutions and youth organizations. Church leaders in the Netherlands, Visser 't Hooft's birthplace, have already expressed interest in inaugurating this initiative in October 1986. Terms of reference for the fund and an outline of assistance which may be provided to national committees will be brought to the September Executive Committee meeting. The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee endorse this initiative and authorize staff to proceed.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

7. 1987 expenditure budget

The Finance Sub-committee received information on the main elements of a 1987 preliminary budget and reviewed its basic assumptions. In view of the expected drop of income due to the US dollar decline, the Sub-committee considered a number of policy issues related to the Reserves and Fund Balances so as to determine what funds can be available to cover the 1987 expenditure budget.

After reviewing the purpose, size and use of the Reserves and Fund Balances, the Finance Sub-committee recommends that:

a) so long as the General Reserve, the Emergency Reserve and the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve remain at or above 3.0 million, 3.0 million and 2.0 million Swiss francs respectively, the Executive Committee authorize the staff to prepare the 1987 budget with no provision to increase the Emergency Reserve, and recommend to the Central Committee in January 1987 to suspend its July 1981 decision requiring that sub-units set aside additional funds for the Emergency Reserve on an annual basis;

b) no allocation to the General Reserve be provided for in the 1987 budget;

c) interest earned on the three above-mentioned funds be made available

   i) one half for new, short-term, experimental programmes that cannot otherwise be funded and the duration of which does not exceed two years and can be handled within the ordinary budget process;

   ii) the other half for new short-term experimental programmes that cannot otherwise be funded and the duration of which does not exceed two years,

and that can be decided by the Central Committee outside of the ordinary budget process. This latter step is to be seen as an initial response to the proposal that the Central Committee's flexibility in allocating available undesignated funds be increased. The General Secretary is requested to bring to the next meeting of the Executive Committee proposed procedures by which such decisions can be made.

These funds can be applied to programmes from any sub-unit of the Council.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

Regarding the amount of Fund Balances that can be seen as available for the 1987 budget, it is recommended that:

a) for undesignated funds, one third of the Operating Balance of the Council after deduction of the corresponding Minimum Fund Balance may be made available for the 1987 budget;

b) for designated funds, the same rules be followed as were established by the Executive Committee in February 1985 for the 1986 budget (Minutes, p. 28).

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The Sub-committee further considered whether the annual contributions to the Seventh Assembly Reserve should continue to be made from undesignated income. The Sub-committee requests the General Secretary to look at the possibility of team visits prior to the Assembly as the Sub-committee wishes to reconsider the question raised for the Seventh Assembly Reserve together with eventual funding of pre-Assembly visitation.

The Finance Sub-committee also considered whether some activities could continue or begin to be extra-budgetary, on the assumption that they would only be undertaken if funding is available, thereby reintroducing the concept of a core budget that was already abandoned by the Central Committee after the Nairobi Assembly. After considering various aspects of this question, the Sub-committee recommends that all activities must be included in one budget, since the above assumption can also be applied to items within the budget. This action also reaffirms the principle established in 1976 that operations undertaken with designated funds should not culminate in demands upon undesignated funds. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation. The Finance Sub-committee has requested staff to bring to its next meeting a report on trust funds.

8. Financial implications of staff appointments

The staff appointments proposed by the Staffing and Nominations Sub-committee are all within the 1986 approved budget.

9. Report on new building

The Finance Sub-committee received a report on the construction of the new building. The first offices will be made available early in 1987.

10. Retirement Fund

The Sub-committee was informed that the Retirement Fund Board had agreed to increase pensions in payment for more than three years by 4% as from 1 April 1986, subject to the Executive Committee's decision to increase staff salaries to compensate for inflation. The cost of such an increase can be borne by the Retirement Fund.

11. Auditors for the 1986 accounts

Subject to the agreement of the Audit Committee, it is recommended that Ernst and Whinney be appointed as auditors for the 1986 financial year.

This was agreed.

12. 1985 Annual Report

It is recommended that staff be authorized to circulate the 1985 accounts to the member churches once they have been audited and approved by the Audit Committee (June 1986) with the understanding that they would be approved by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

This was agreed.

13. Travel of Executive Committee

The Sub-committee recommends that the Officers and the Moderator of the Finance Committee issue travel-related expense guidelines applicable for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

This was agreed.

14. Finance Consultation

The Sub-committee gave preliminary consideration to the agenda for a small consultation on financial policy and actual practice in the WCC and the member churches as suggested by the experience of the hearings on finance during the 1985 Central Committee meeting. The Executive Committee is urged to instruct the Officers to schedule one and a half days for this purpose between the Executive and Central Committee meetings in January 1987.

This was agreed.

15. Alternative patterns of support

The Sub-committee received a progress report on a first survey of churches' non-financial contributions and requested staff to include the questionnaire in the 1985 financial report as a way of encouraging further response. A report on the continuing study of alternative financial patterns was received for information.

16. Computers in WCC

The Finance Sub-committee received a report on the introduction of computers in the WCC since 1983 for accounting, office automation and the library.

It is recommended that the Executive Committee confirm the authorization of the Officers to increase the expenditure for the library computer from 58,000 to 208,000 Swiss francs, the difference to be covered by the General Reserve of the Council.

This was agreed.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-committee and accepted its recommendations.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Central Committee

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Central Committee should be held in Geneva. Dr McCloud, on behalf of the Finance Sub-committee, asked that about a day and a half be allowed between the end of the Executive Committee and the beginning of the Central Committee for a short consultation on finances.

Several members expressed concern at the length of Central Committee meetings. The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee which later recommended that, when an Executive Committee meeting precedes a Central Committee meeting, the maximum number of days, including travel time, be limited to 14. Central Committee meetings in Geneva should be shorter than those held elsewhere. These recommendations were accepted.

The Programme Sub-committee also considered and accepted a proposal that at an early stage in the next Central Committee meeting a presentation be made on the mutual responsibility in communicating WCC concerns. The Sub-committee said it would be appreciated if alternative ways of communication coming from different cultures, such as street-theatre, could be shared at that presentation. The Executive Committee received this proposal.

Details of Central Committee meetings (dates inclusive of day of arrival and departure) up to the Seventh Assembly, which had already been agreed, are as follows:

1987	**	14-26 January	Geneva
1988		11-22 August	Hannover, FRG
1989		16-27 July	Moscow, USSR
1990		July	Geneva

B. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee agreed to accept with gratitude the invitation from the Church of Iceland to hold its next meeting in Reykjavik. It also agreed to meet in the USA, at a centre of black church life to be proposed to the Executive Committee in September, after discussion among USA Executive members, staff and black church leaders. Invitations to meet in Istanbul in March 1988 and in Bucharest in February 1989 or 1990 were noted.

Details of Executive Committee meetings (dates inclusive of day of arrival and departure) up to the Seventh Assembly, are as follows:

1986		14-20 September	Reykjavik, Iceland
1987	**	10-13 January	Geneva
		20-26 September	USA
1988		6-12 March	Istanbul, Turkey ?
		7-10 August	Hannover, FRG
1989		12-18 February	Bucharest, Romania ?
		12-15 July	Moscow, USSR
1990		12-18 February	Geneva
		July	Geneva
1991		February	Geneva

Dr McCloud proposed that the Officers be requested to review and propose revision of sub-committee membership to the January 1987 meeting of the Executive Committee. Changes in sub-committee membership would applicable with the September 1987 meeting. This was agreed.

14. CLOSING ACTIONS

It was suggested that at the beginning of its meeting in September the Executive Committee should reflect on its meeting in Zaire. Members were asked to send written comments to help the Officers in their planning for the next meeting.

** It was subsequently agreed that the dates of the Executive and Central Committees in January 1987 (dates inclusive of days of arrival and departure) should be as follows:

Executive Committee:	11-14 January 1987
Central Committee:	15-25 January 1987

The General Secretary expressed the thanks of the Committee to His Eminence Diangienda Kuntima for the hospitality extended to it. All participants had felt at home in the Kimbanguist "family of faith and of friendship". Some souvenirs of the visit were presented to His Eminence.

His Eminence Diangienda Kuntima, who also presented gifts to the World Council, said that it had been a joy for the whole Kimbanguist community to receive Christians from all over the world. Their presence had been a stimulation for the Kimbanguist Church.

The Moderator closed the session with the benediction.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
	Very Rev. Dr Lois M. Wilson
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held (Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania
	Mr Harry A. Ashmall
	Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef
	Mr Bena-Silu
	Mr Puafitu Faa'alo
	Ms Joyce Kaddu
	Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk
	Dr Janice Love
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud
	Rev. Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan
	Rev. Meinrad Piske
	Dr Aaron Tolen
	Mr Per Voksø
Observer:	Rev. Jacques Maury
Staff:	Dr Reginald Amonoo-Lartson
	Ms Marie B. Assaad
	Dr Anwar M. Barkat
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin
	Rev. Jacques Blanc
	Rev. Coenraad Boerma
	Dr Stuart Brown
	Rev. Joan Campbell
	Mr Patrick Coïdan
	Mr Trevor Davies
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann
	Rev. Heikki Huttunen
	Mr Ninan Koshy
	Dr Kimpianga Mahaniah
	Rev. Clifford Payne
	Rev. William A. Perkins
	Mr Hugh Pettingell
	Dr Klaus Poser
	Prof. Todor Sabev
	Ms Ruth Sovik
	Rev. Dr Eugene Stockwell

Interpreters:	Mr Sudi Nsube Kan's Kampuma Mr Vassily Makhnev Ms Renate Sbeghen Ms Ursula Zierl
Minute writer:	Ms Auriol Burrows
Administration:	Ms Erna Haller

APOLOGIES

Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow — Aido. Vital, Colin Dr Marga Bührig — Vital, Colin Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu
Officer:	Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra
Members:	Ms Jean Skuse Bishop Karoly Toth

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Programme

Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios	(Acting Moderator)
Metropolitan Chrysostomos	(Moderator, not present)
Dr Marga Bührig	(not present)
Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel	(not present)
Patriarch Ignatios IV	(not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu	
Dr Janice Love	
Rev. Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan	
Rev. Meinrad Piske	
Bishop Karoly Toth	(not present)

Sub-committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud	(Moderator)
Metropolitan Antonie	
Mr Harry A. Ashmall	
Mr Bena-Silu	
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu	(not present)
Ms Jean Skuse	(not present)
Mr Per Voksø	
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson	

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot	(Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera	
Archbishop Athanasios	
Dame R. Nita Barrow	(not present)
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo	
Archbishop Kirill	
Dr Aaron Tolen	

APPENDIX III

JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC)

1. The Central Committee in August 1985 gave general approval to the emphases, direction and programme elements of "Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation" as outlined in the report given to it.

2. The call by the Sixth Assembly to member churches to engage "in a conciliar process of mutual commitment (covenant) to justice, peace and the integrity of creation", has to be seen against the background of qualitatively new levels of destructive developments in the fields of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The churches are seeking new ways of engagement and new forms of struggle for realization of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Because of the new levels of the threats to life and because of the growing recognition that witness in this area is central to the faith of the churches an ecclesiological dimension becomes an integral part of the struggle.

3. Various sub-units of the WCC are developing programmes which have special reference to JPIC. While it is not intended to claim that every programme is part of JPIC there is emphasis on the theological aspects, strengthening of networks, in highlighting symbolic and focal points where justice, peace and the integrity of creation come together and in identifying ways of bringing out visible points of linkages.

4. The General Secretary, in a letter of invitation to member churches, national councils of churches and regional ecumenical organizations, said:

> "The time has come for beginning the long process of engaging ourselves as a family of churches 'in a conciliar process of mutual commitment (covenant) to justice, peace and the integrity of creation' to which the Vancouver Assembly has called us. For many churches, action on these issues is already well begun and others need to hear your story. For those who now hear the Assembly's call with new urgency, this is an invitation to join in a process which will strengthen the commitment of the WCC and the churches to one another in the struggles for justice, peace and the integrity of creation for the sake of the church and the world."

5. An invitation was extended to the Roman Catholic Church through the Joint Working Group, as suggested by the Central Committee. Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church have participated in the discussions at staff level and in informal consultations. In the Advisory Group also they have agreed to be observers, leaving the question of full participation to a later date and subject to the evolution of the process.

6. The Central Committee in 1985 asked for the exploration of the basis, procedures, models and elements of covenanting along with its theological basis. Some preliminary work has been done at the staff level. The tentative operational considerations and proposals are given in the background paper with the provisional hypotheses regarding basic assumptions given as an appendix.

7. The Central Committee in 1985 approved the proposals for appointment of an Advisory Group and consultations on covenanting and the integrity of creation. The terms of reference of the Advisory Group along with suggestions for composition of the Group are given.

8. It is proposed that the first international consultation be held in September 1986 to be followed by the first meeting of the Advisory Group. On the basis of the evaluation of the churches' replies to the letter of invitation, the positions already reached within the ecumenical movement and the contributions of the participants, the consultation will aim at preparing a convergence process with regard to the various ways the churches and traditions express firm commitment to faithful life and action on matters in relation to justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The consultation will discuss the criteria of understanding covenanting as well as specific initiatives by various confessional bodies and some individual churches.

9. The first meeting of the Advisory Group will make proposals on the convergence process and also elaborate the next stages of the programme. These proposals will be submitted to the Central Committee in January 1987.

10. All regional conferences of churches are being requested to include the JPIC process in their regular agenda and to plan for a major gathering on JPIC at the regional level but in a global context. It is recognized that the emphasis would vary from region to region and that already in some regions, conferences of this nature have been held.

11. The Central Committee in 1985 extended support for national and regional initiatives like the "Council for Peace" as part of the process towards the World Conference on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. On the basis of discussions with the churches the following proposal is made:

> The churches in Europe, East and West, are particularly concerned about the continuing arms race with ever more frightening weapons. A regional assembly could be called, for example, during the "Peace Week" in November 1987 or in 1988. However, with regard to linking it to the global process for JPIC at least those questions of justice and the integrity of creation should be included that directly impinge on the necessity for disarmament, i.e. the exorbitant arms race as the main

reason for new poverty, including unemployment in Europe and the USA, and the military build-up also seen as one of the most important factors of ecological destructions. The presence of representatives from churches in Asia, Africa and Latin America could strongly support this linking of peace with justice and creation issues. It is the arms race which is one of the main reasons for global militarization, poverty and oppression. This "European (or Northern) Assembly on Peace with Justice" could take up the results of the 1981 WCC Public Hearing on "Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament" and the Vancouver Assembly and be one major step in the process. The possibility of making this an Assembly for the region covered by the Helsinki Final Act may be considered.

The Assembly may be called by the WCC in cooperation with CEC and other European ecumenical organizations.

12. It is proposed to hold further discussions with the Christian World Communions regarding their contribution and participation in the process.

13. It is proposed that an official letter be sent to non-member churches about plans and inviting them to join in the JPIC process.

14. The first meeting of the Advisory Group should consider invitations to people of other living faiths and movements for justice, peace and the integrity of creation and possible forms of collaboration with them.

15. As the process evolves it is evident that it has profound implications for the next Assembly and therefore its relation to the Assembly has to be carefully considered.

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JPIC ADVISORY GROUP

Dr Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Church of the Province of Kenya, Kenya/Ethiopia

Rev. Dick Avi, United Church of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea

Dr Joyce H.E. Bailey, Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, Jamaica

Ms Dianne Cooper, United Church of Canada, Canada

Rev. Yvonne Delk, United Church of Christ, USA

Rev. Dr Heino Falcke, Federation of the Evangelical Churches in the GDR, GDR

Rev. Prof. K.M. George, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, India

Archpriest Prof. Nikolai Gundaev, Russian Orthodox Church, USSR

Rev. Margot Kaessmann, Evangelical Church in Germany, FRG

Mr Kimmo Kärkkäinen, Orthodox Church of Finland, Finland

Ms Mahat El Khoury, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Syria

Dr Kim Yong-Bock, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Korea

Dr Jonathan Kuttab, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, Palestinian

Rev. Prof. Jaroslav Ondra, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, Czechoslovakia

Dr Gustavo S. Parajon, Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, Nicaragua

Ms Erlina C.C. Pardede, Huria Kristen Batak Protestan, Indonesia

Rev. Enilson Rocha-Souza, Evangelical Pentecostal Church "Brazil for Christ", Brazil

Mr Joe Seremane, Church of the Province of Southern Africa, South Africa

Ms Mary Tanner, Church of England, United Kingdom

Ms Rose Zoe-Obianga, Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, Cameroon